

2011-12 Program Performance Report Summary & Highlights



Mission

The Council advocates, promotes and implements policies and practices that achieve self-determination, independence, productivity and inclusion in all aspects of community life for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families.

Vision

Californians with developmental disabilities are guaranteed the same full and equal opportunities for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as all Americans.

Who we are

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is established by state and federal law as an independent state agency to ensure that people with developmental disabilities and their families receive the services and supports they need.

Consumers know best what supports and services they need to live independently and to actively participate in their communities. Through advocacy, capacity building and systemic change, SCDD works to achieve a consumer and family-based system of individualized services, supports, and other assistance.

Because of the vast size and diversity of California, the Council has thirteen local area offices, or Area Boards, who work collaboratively in the community to implement the Council's State Plan's educational and community supports objectives through local activities and projects in partnership with local organizations.

The Council and its area offices work with, support and collaborate with self-advocates, family members, providers, and governmental entities to improve and enhance the lives of people with disabilities. The Council prioritizes teaching people with disabilities about their rights and how to become self-advocate leaders. To that end, the council is trying to reach the next generation of self-advocates through presentations and outreach to youth at schools and colleges.

COLLABORATIONS

The Council works with many agencies and groups at the state and local level. Some of them are listed below:

Federal Partners:

- University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), USC
- Tarjan Center, UCEDD, UCLA
- Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, MIND Institute, UC Davis
- Disability Rights California

Agency Partners

- Department of Developmental Services
- Department of Education
- Department of Rehabilitation
- Employment Development Department

Advocacy and Other Groups

- Family Resource Centers
- Lanterman Coalition
- Alliance of California Autism Organizations
- California Coalition on Long-Term Services and Supports
- Community Colleges
- World Institute on Disability
- Service Employees International Union
- Association of Regional Center Agencies
- The Arc of California, UCP, local providers
- Local regional centers, school districts, SELPAs, law enforcement, courts, public defenders, county social and behavioral services, etc.

**A copy of the five year State Plan and the full copy of
the 2011-12 Program Performance Report can be found at**

<http://www.scdd.ca.gov/stateplan.htm>

Highlights of 2011-12

Self-Advocacy

In 2012 the Council established a new statewide Self-Advocacy organization that was inspired by the lessons learned at the 2011 AIDD Regional Self-Advocacy Summits. The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN)

was created to build a statewide association of self-advocates who represent regional and statewide

advocacy organizations. Supported by the Council, SSAN was created to build an alliance that links local communities with statewide organizations to advance their message to the public and policymakers.



SSAN membership is made up of self-advocates from the Council's Self-Advocates Advisory Committee, the 13 Area Boards, the three California University Centers for Excellence, Disability Rights California, the California Foundation for Independent Living, and the Department of Developmental Services Consumer Advisory Committee.

Through council grants, in-kind support and conference scholarships the Council's local area offices (Area Boards) supported self-advocates and their organizations in holding 12 conferences with 2200 self-advocates and their families attending.

Leadership Training

The Council through a Cycle 34 grant provided funding for 10 students with developmental disabilities to participate in the California Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities (YLF). YLF is a cross disability forum where students with

disabilities from across the state come to the State capitol in Sacramento for a week long learning experience. Students learn about becoming a leader and the legislative process. Students learn public speaking and also meet with legislators and their staff.

Emergency Preparation

Through a grant, the "Feeling Safe Being Safe" program was presented to local self-advocate chapters throughout the state. Attendees received information and training about how to be prepared and how to put together emergency backpacks. Individuals also signed up for and were issued "In Case of Emergency" (ICE) cards with their photo and other contact or information that would be helpful to First or Emergency responders. Area Boards also participated in numerous emergency preparedness fairs.



Legislative & Public Policy

Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC) met five times during the Federal fiscal year. It is comprised of Council members, family members of people with developmental disabilities and federal partners.

The LPPC sent position letters on 35 State Assembly bills, 18 State Senate bills, two Federal House of Representatives bills, and one Federal Senate bill. The Council also sponsored one bill, to advance an Employment First policy which did not pass. Council staff also worked with legislative staff to craft language and help build support for legislation. The Council made significant contributions to the drafting of a major piece of legislation to promote Self-Determination, AB 1244 (Chesbro). The Council provided invited testimony at a hearing in the California Assembly and informed legislators of the benefits of Self-Determination.

Town Hall meetings were held on the impact of budget cuts on services for people with developmental disabilities. In attendance were two state legislators and 10 legislative staff, adults with developmental disabilities, and providers/professionals.



Diversity

California is one of the most linguistically diverse states in the country and is home to more than 50 languages. This can present a significant barrier to accessing and providing services.

The Council through the local area offices, or Area Boards, has worked to make sure that families are able to receive information in their primary language about their rights, responsibilities, community supports, and other topics. Area Boards have provided interpreters at trainings and presentations, staff that are fluent in other languages have made

presentations in those languages and materials have been translated into several languages.

Languages that the Council utilizes for educational purposes include: English, Spanish, Mandarin/Chinese, Tagalog, Hmong and Korean.

The Council has also made the development of materials in Plain Language a high priority. All materials produced for the Statewide Self-Advocate Network (SSAN) are in Plain Language. The Council's 2012-16 State Plan has a Plain Language version that is included on the Council's website.

Education

Area Boards worked throughout the last fiscal year to assist people with developmental disabilities and their families to navigate the K -12 school system, transition to post-secondary education or career paths as well as participate in all aspects of local community life. Area Boards helped people find opportunities to participate in meaningful service and volunteer opportunities, and learn to access assistive technology.

Transition

Moving from high school to college or work is an important time in young people's lives. Students with developmental disabilities and their families struggle with the many decisions that need to be made, finding whom to turn to for advice and finding the resources needed to make those decisions. The Council has made transition for youth with developmental disabilities a high priority.

Area Boards worked collaboratively with school districts, regional centers, Department of Rehabilitation, community colleges and others to find ways to give youths with developmental disabilities and their families the tools and resources to navigate through this difficult time by holding resource fairs, making presentations, distributing materials and helping students learn about college through tours and helping them register for classes.

One Area Board assisted the California Transition Alliance, County Office of Education, and CalSTAT to organize the Regional Transition Institute- "Building a Community of Practice" where 150 educators, administrators, transition

supporting professionals and families attended.

Through an Area Board grant, a transition training series "Ramping Up for Independence" was created with 6 sessions with topics: 1) "Dreaming Big and Getting Practical: How to Navigate Work, Housing, Relationships, College, and Fun after High School."; 2) "Making Work Work: Taking a Close Look at the Range of Employment Possibilities."; 3) "It's Your Move: Exploring Housing and Living Support Options. 4) "Searching for Relationships: Making Connections that Matter"; 5) "Considering College: Learning What's Available and How to Get it."; and 6) "Recipes for Recreation: Expanding Your Repertoire for Fun."

One Area Board serves as a community worksite for the work based learning component of WorkAbility I (WAI) which is a model transition program for youth with disabilities offered through the California Department of Education. (Link to more detailed program info:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/sr/wrkabltl.asp>)

The Council is also a lead agency in the California Employment Consortium for Youth (CECY), which is formed through a 5 year systems change grant from AIDD on employment. The other lead agencies are the Departments of Rehabilitation, Developmental Services, and Education. The project is managed out of the Tarjan Center, USC UCEDD.

Early Start & Young Children

The Council through its area offices made presentations, conducted trainings and provided individual advocacy to families of young children with developmental disabilities about their rights and responsibilities. Topics included:



- "Let's Play! Let's Move! Let's Talk" free seminars for parents of children under 3 to 20 families
- "Evaluations: How to Understand Them & Get Services for Your Child"
- Exploring the World of Real Play for Children"
- "Inclusion of Children with Diverse Disabilities"
- "Early Intervention, Autism and Developmental Disabilities"

Employment

The results of California's National Core Indicators survey, based on a sample of 8,724 interviews, showed that only 8% of those surveyed (all working age adults with I/DD) had a job in the community. This compares with 14.4% of NCI interviewed adults nationally. Furthermore, data from the California Employment Development Department shows that only 14% of working age adults served by the Developmental Disability system receive any kind of paycheck (including from segregated and sub-minimum wage work).

As a result of legislation passed in 2009 the Council was charged with establishing an Employment First Committee (EFC) which would recommend an Employment First

policy to the Legislature and Governor. The EFC was also tasked with annually reporting to the state on employment outcomes, methods of data collection, best practices, interagency collaboration, and policy recommendations.

During federal fiscal year 2011-12 the EFC submitted its first annual report to the governor and legislature, **"EMPLOYMENT FIRST, A vision of Californians with developmental disabilities working in competitive integrated employment."**

The report included 23 goals and numerous strategies for improving the employment of persons with disabilities. The recommended Employment First Policy California was:

"It is the policy of the State of California that integrated competitive employment is the priority outcome for working age individuals with developmental disabilities."

In plain language:

"Work is for all"

To further the work of the Employment First Committee, the Council also sponsored legislation and worked hard, though ultimately unsuccessfully, to pass two bills, Assembly Bill 254 and Assembly Bill 2338, aimed at establishing an employment first policy in statute.

The EFC narrowed its focus for 2012 to: (1) Promoting the employment first policy and (2) strengthening the transition of youth to integrated competitive employment and post-secondary education, including for under-represented populations.

Complementing the work of the Employment First Committee and CECY, the Council through its local area offices is

trying to help Californians with developmental disabilities find gainful employment or help start their own businesses.

For example, the Arts and Performance Studio grant program grew from 7 to 17 individuals. Program participants gained self-awareness, developed computer skills, and assembled artist's portfolios. Artists received support starting from art facilitation to technical assistance in displaying for exhibition, participating in shows and performing arts and self-employment. Artists have begun to earn income from their art with sales nationally and internationally.

An area board worked collaboratively with a County Office of Education created the Rusty Wagon Adult Vocational Program, an Adult Vocational Program and store front for individuals with developmental disabilities. Rusty Wagon provides



employment, training, and entrepreneurial opportunities in the areas of retail sales, marketing,

customer service, food service and product development. The store sells locally and regionally produced items, such as fresh produce and arts and crafts.

Through a grant awarded to the Mother Lode Micro Business, three people started their own micro businesses. Mother Lode also gave presentations across the

mountain counties and co-hosted a micro business fair. The program helps people to research and develop a business plan.

Post-Secondary Education

Area Boards collaborated in promoting the expansion of Mains' College Plus Program. It is currently supporting 10 college students with I/DD at a community college. The program supports and assists young adults to pursue a college degree or academic certificate.



Another Area Board provides technical assistance and advice as a member of the Advisory Committee to the College to Career (C2C) program at one of five demonstration C2C projects. A total of 44 students are in the program, 24 are in their first year and 20 in their second of three years.

Assistance, referral and information was provided for the creation and implementation of Wayfinder Program to enable clients to attend California State University, Fresno (CSUF). It is an inclusive postsecondary program for young adults with I/DD, supporting students with coaching and supporting life skills development in their apartments.

In another program, 12 youth were offered a week long "College Bound" program to offer the college experience, as well as necessary classes to stimulate interest in attending college post high school. The week long program was held on the campus of the University of San Diego, and the students lived in dormitories, attended classes during the day, and participated in campus wide activities in the evening.

Housing

According to census data, California has one of the highest median rents in the country at approximately \$1100.¹

The Council collaborated with local non-profit housing corporations to monitor and influence the housing plans of municipalities to reflect the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities for affordable and accessible housing. For example, the City of Alameda announced that it had awarded Satellite Housing, in partnership with the Housing Consortium of the East Bay, \$5.7 million to build Jack Capon Village on the current site of a city parking lot near the Alameda Police Department headquarters. The city will make 19 units of affordable housing at the development available to households in which at least one member has a developmental disability and total household income is at or below 50 percent of the area's median income. Tenants will pay 30 percent of their adjusted monthly income for rent.



Health

The Council held Town Hall meetings and publicized the provisions of Senate Bill 946, which requires insurance companies to provide coverage for behavioral health treatment for pervasive developmental disorder or autism.

An Area Board sponsored a self-advocate to teach two hygiene classes “Clean Hands”

and “Clean Teeth” to other consumers. Fourteen presentations were done to almost 400 consumers.

In collaboration with San Diego People First and the San Diego Regional Center's Health and Wellness committee, a day long self-advocate- led Leadership Symposium was held. The symposium offered training on the topics of “Healthy Eating”, “Stress Reduction”, “Exercises for Everyday Living” and “Being Your Own Health Care Advocate”.

Community Supports

The Area Boards assisted 3500 people during the fiscal year by providing individual and family advocacy through information and referral for a variety of topics including: regional center services; health; housing; transportation; In-Home-Support-Services (IHSS); Social Security; employment; conservatorship; and respite.

Council staff also conducted more than 20 fair hearing appeals for Individual Program Plans (IPP) with the 21 regional centers and over 400 Individual Educational Plans (IEP) with school districts, Individual Service Plans (ISP) with service providers, IHSS appeals hearings, and mediations.

Through Council efforts, several school districts improved their IEP processes. For example, after Area Board staff assisted a Spanish speaking family to receive all IEP related materials in their first language, Spanish, the school district started providing material in Spanish upon request.

Area Boards conducted 87 presentations, trainings, webinars, held conferences and resource fairs during the last fiscal year to provide information to more than 4000 people with developmental disabilities, their

¹ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Brief, Housing Costs of Renters: 2000 (C2KBR-21)
<http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/c2kbr-21.pdf>
(accessed October 4, 2010); 2010 American Community Survey
(B25064 and B25071)
<http://www.ipssr.ku.edu/ksdata/ksah/housing/4house10.pdf>

families, care providers and other professionals. Major topics included health, housing, transportation, In-Home-Support-Services (IHSS), Social Security, employment, Individual Program Plans (IPP) concerning regional centers, Individual Educational Plans (IEP) with school districts and Individual Service Plans (ISP) with service providers.

Several events were conducted entirely in Spanish or with Spanish translators. One educational presentation presented in Spanish was, "Preparando por el IEP". Two particularly successful events were Congreso Familiar and Fiesta Educativa conference. The Fiesta Educativa is a conference designed to educate and empower parents to be more active in their child's life and to become leaders and or mentors for others.

Area Boards provided information on VITA and Tax Assistance and counseling services for people with disabilities, low-income and elderly services. A webinar was conducted on Social Security regarding employment for persons with disabilities, the "Ticket to Work" Program and other work incentives for Social Security recipients.

Cross Cutting

In California there are almost a thousand school districts, more than 100 Special Education Local Area Plans (SELPA), close to 50 Family Resource Centers, and hundreds of provider and non-profit organizations that provides education and training to people with developmental disabilities, their families and people that help them. The Council through the efforts of the thirteen local Area Board offices supports and collaborates with many of these local organizations. This support and

collaboration resulted in hosting or attending more than 30 resource fairs, Disability Awareness Days, conferences, trainings, webinars, and participation on advisory committees.

Developmental Centers

California has four developmental centers (DC) and one smaller state-run facility housing a combined total of over 1600 residents. One developmental center, Porterville has a forensic unit. Through a contract with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) the Council provides Client's Rights Advocates (CRA) and a program of volunteer advocates (VAS) at each facility. Council staff members are actively involved in the ongoing closure activities at Lanterman Developmental Center.

National Core Indicators

The Council contracted with California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to conduct National Core Indicators (NCI) program surveys with people with developmental disabilities who receive services from the State to gauge how they felt about the quality of their lives and services. The NCI is a collaborative effort between National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI). Each state normally collects approximately 400 completed surveys. California conducts 400 completed surveys from each of the 21 regional centers for a total of 8400 surveys statewide.

SCDD BY THE NUMBERS

People trained by SCDD in areas related to goals or objectives 10,933

People trained in leadership, self-advocacy or self-determination 2180

People trained in system advocacy 2590

People active in system advocacy 606

Programs/policies created or improved 22

National Core Indicator surveys conducted 7317

People attained membership on public /private bodies & leadership coalitions 45

Number of public policymakers educated 1482

Members of the public reached 18,594

Monies leveraged \$5,123,973



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